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The Youth Conferences on Older Americans originated with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) determination to offer a meaningful contribution to the nation's Bicentennial observance. In 1976, by Presidential proclamation, Americans were urged to focus attention on the issues concerning older people. NRTA accepted this charge with an added dimension: to encourage high school students to initiate meetings with older people, in an educational setting, to discuss the issues. The anticipated outcome was increased awareness and understanding. This report is based on information received from high schools by April 15, 1976. From frequently-reported statements a clear pattern emerges: the Youth Conferences offered a valued and much-enjoyed learning experience for both groups of participants, the youth and the older people. Their words indicate a sense of discovery, learning and a strongly-felt need for change. (Author/YRJ)

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1975-76 YOUTH CONFERENCES ON OLDER AMERICANS

A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

May 1976

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

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1975-76 YOUTH CONFERENCES ON OLDER AMERICANS

A project initiated by . . .

The National Retired Teachers Association

Cosponsored by . . .

The American Association of Retired Persons and the National Association of Secondary School Principals

Assisted by . . .

The National Humanities Faculty

Conducted in High Schools throughout the United States as an Extracurricular Activity or Class Project

This project was financed in part by a grant from the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

This report was compiled by the
National Retired Teachers Association
1909 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20049

Elizabeth N. Harrison
Project Director

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To Think, To Speak, To Be Heard, To Make a Difference

Handbook, 1975-76 Youth Conferences on Older Americans

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Conferences on Older Americans originated with the National Retired Teachers Association's determination to offer a meaningful contribution to the nation's Bicentennial observance. In 1976, by Presidential proclamation, Americans were urged to focus attention on the issues concerning older people. NRTA accepted this charge with an added dimension: to encourage high school students to initiate meetings with older people, in an educational setting, to discuss the issues. The anticipated outcome: increased awareness and understanding.

Some predicted failure for the Youth Conference concept. They were convinced that young and old would find nothing in common, could not communicate, and should not even try.

One student group, invited to consider the challenge, found it exciting and voted to conduct an experimental conference to test the idea. On February 7, 1975, fifty students and fifty older people met for a day of discussion sponsored by the Student Board of Education in Santa Barbara, California. Students meticulously planned for the conference, welcomed their guests, co-chaired discussion groups, participated in the exchange of views, and reported the results. At the close of the day, both young and old enthusiastically praised the experience and urged that similar projects be offered nationwide.

Joining NRTA in sponsoring the project nationally were the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. NASSP, a leading advocate of action learning, informed its nationwide constituency about the Youth Conference project and encouraged participation. The President of the United States wrote an open letter supporting the project, and the chairmen of the Congressional Committees on Aging also endorsed the program.

In September, 1975 conference information was mailed to 41,000 secondary school students and faculty members. Those interested were invited to request a planning handbook. Thirty-five hundred copies of the handbook were in readiness; the supply was exhausted in three days. A second printing of ten thousand handbooks was necessary to fill requests. Among those requesting the handbook: student leaders (officers of Student Councils, National Honor Society chapters, and other school organizations), advisers, principals and teachers of many subjects, including science, English, psychology, business education, social studies, health education, home economics and journalism.

The exact number of Youth Conferences conducted in the 1975-76 school year may never be known; the reporting of conference results to NRTA is voluntary. However, present indications are that hundreds of conferences have been implemented or are in the planning stages. Additionally, the project appears to have sparked a wide range of other activities involving students and older people.

This report is based on information received from high schools by April 15, 1976. The contents, while not definitive, may well be representative of the project in its nationwide implementation, in view of the many similarities noted in the reports received.

From frequently-reported statements, often in the same words, a clear pattern emerges: the Youth Conferences have offered a valued and much-enjoyed learning experience for both groups of participants, the youth and the older people. Their words repeatedly convey discovery, learning and a strongly-felt need for change.

The symbols (17) and (70) are used throughout this report to indicate the approximate age of the person quoted--(17) includes junior and senior high school students; (70) includes older participants of all ages. By way of summary, some representative comments:

(17) "I discovered that they are people just like we are."

(70) "It's good to find out that not all the young people are against us."

(70) "We found that young people and older people can get together and discuss the issues that concern both."

(17) "It's so much easier to talk with them than I thought it would be."

(70) "Education is failing us. People are not prepared for growing old. It's as if you would always be working, as if that's all there is to life."

(17) "I had thought people were willing to stay retired... I found that many want to go back to work but they are discriminated against because of age."

(70) "The real need is for action to bring about change."

(17) "If people across the nation would do this, there would be a great change."

PART I.

EXAMPLES OF YOUTH CONFERENCES ON OLDER AMERICANS

SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Santa Barbara, California

February 7, 1975 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
School District Administration Center

Sponsored by the Student Board of Education

Participants: 50 students, 50 older people

Highlights: The conference was characterized by spontaneity, warmth and open exchange of ideas and information among students (grades 7-12) and older people from the community. Participants were enthusiastic about the opportunity to get together and talk "as people" and to learn about each other. The youth initiative aspect of the conference was valued highly by both groups.

The Santa Barbara Council of Retirement Groups assisted the students in extending invitations to the older population. Student school board members invited other students from the district's four senior high schools and three junior highs. Four discussion groups were co-chaired by adult and student leaders who met in planning sessions prior to the conference.

Following rotating discussions on current issues, all four groups met concurrently and considered the Charter for Older Americans. In every group concern was expressed that the Charter is not well known and should be better publicized "especially since people should be more aware of growing old--they aren't prepared for it." Every group discussed the need to implement the Charter. "Otherwise it's a useless piece of paper." One group recommended adding "the right to implement the rights mentioned in the Charter, through legislation."

All groups felt that "transportation" should be added specifically to the Charter. One group pointed out that the exercise of many of the other rights depends on transportation.

All groups emphasized the right to adequate income and medical care. The right to employment was underscored--employment based on merit, whether keeping one's present job instead of retiring or obtaining work after retiring. One group amplified its opposition to mandatory retirement by stating that, "People become old at different ages."

Equality received attention. It was recommended that all references in the Charter to the masculine pronoun be changed to add the feminine, and that the preamble be amended to read, "regardless of race, color, creed or sex."

SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT--continued

Group I reported a recommendation that there be classes in schools on what it is like to get old, and what rights to work toward as a person ages. Every group touched on this matter. Group II stated that education has not prepared people to enjoy leisure time; they are oriented only to work, and as a result it is difficult to adjust to retirement.

Group IV stressed, "The senior citizen is the same person that he has always been," and added, "There should be a charter for everyone all of the time." They related this recommendation to society and to education. "Young people are not prepared for growing old." "What age is old?" "Everybody is getting older all the time." "This Charter spells out things you have to start doing when you are young and be doing all of the time." "These are rights and responsibilities of society, and people should be aware of this."

In one discussion of what could be done to make the Charter more meaningful, an older person commented that, in his opinion, the students were helping to make it meaningful by coming out in such a large number to talk about the subject.

Post-conference evaluation indicated that the Charter in itself was not considered of great importance by the participants. What was important was the experience of getting together and talking about common interests, in an atmosphere that encouraged the two age groups to share thoughts and feelings. The Charter provided a basis for the meeting. Some comments:

(70) "The best thing was the good interaction between the adults and the students."

(17) "It changed our views of each other. It gave people a chance to know others of other age groups."

(70) "It's not just for students and retired people because those youngsters will go home and talk to their parents."

(17) "The older people were really great. I enjoyed it. I was surprised. My grandparents think kids today are all bums. These old people kept saying that we kids are under so much more pressure. I was surprised that they think it's so much harder for us than it was for them."

(17) "The next conference should be two days instead of one, so there would be more time to talk. I didn't think there was enough time to talk with the elderly. I really enjoyed it."

SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT--continued

Program

9:00 Opening Session
- Welcome
- Keynote Address
- Announcements

9:30 Seminar Block I*

10:15 Break; refreshments

10:40 Seminar Block II*

11:30 Film, "Aging"

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Seminar Block III*

1:55 General Session
- Introduction of Charter for Older Americans
- Four discussion groups

2:55 General Session
- Group Reports on Charter for Older Americans
- Discussion
- Conference Evaluation

3:30 Adjournment

*Topics are repeated; participants change.

"The Housing, Transportation and Care of the Aging"

"Second Careers and the Economics of Aging"

"Recreational Facilities and Special Programs for Senior Citizens"

"The Family and the Senior Citizen"

Additional information:

Dr. Robert Bowen, Principal
La Colina Junior High School
4025 Foothill Road
Santa Barbara, California 93110
(805) 967-4506

BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL
Bridgeport, Texas

November 19, 1975 8:30 a.m.-12 noon
Bridgeport High School Library

Sponsored by the Student Council and National Honor Society

Participants: 55 students, 14 older people

Highlights: "Young Four Country" cameramen were present, and a film report of the conference was televised by Channel 4, Dallas, Texas, on Wednesday, December 3, 1975 at 6:30 p.m.

Four discussion groups focused on (1) the meaning of each point of the Charter for Older Americans; (2) forced retirement; (3) special services such as discounts, free bus fare, ceiling on taxes, free medical treatment, etc.; (4) changes that should be made in the Charter.

Many participants of both age groups felt that the Charter should include a tenth right, "the right to be employed until it is physically or mentally impossible to work and to receive full Social Security benefits if one chooses to work beyond retirement age." The report commented, "Many older people were disturbed by the fact that federal officials aren't under the same retirement rules as other Americans."

Additional comments: "The right to be useful should include the right to have opportunities to be useful."

Some questioned "the right to live and die with dignity" because of its frankness. Some felt it should mention only living with dignity, others only dying with dignity. A few agreed that it belonged in the Charter; some thought it should be deleted.

Several older people felt that people should be obligated to retire when they know that they can no longer do their jobs efficiently. Another obligation mentioned was that to seek help when the older person no longer is able to be active, alert and self-supporting.

The report concluded: "Sponsors, students and older people all agreed that the discussion was very beneficial....We feel that we have accomplished our purpose of adding ideas and thoughts to the Charter, but more importantly, we believe that we brought the generations of Bridgeport a bit closer to understanding one another."

BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

8:30 Registration

8:45 Welcome

9:00 Discussion I*

9:40 Discussion II*

10:10 Break

10:40 Discussion III*

11:15 Discussion IV*

11:45 Summary Discussion

*Topics: I. The Meaning of Each Point, Charter for Older Americans

II. Forced Retirement

III. Special Services for Older Americans

IV. What Changes Should Be Made in the Charter?

Additional Information:

Kevin Jones, Student Chairman
Route 1, Bridgeport, Texas 76026
(817) 683-4494

Elizabeth Gilbert, Student Council Sponsor
1702 Edgewood Drive, Bridgeport, Texas 76026
(817) 683-2800

Mrs. Jane Coggin, National Honor Society Sponsor
106 West Cates Street, Bridgeport, Texas 76026
(817) 683-4422

GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
Chesapeake, Virginia

November 25, 1975 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
City-wide SCA Meeting, Great Bridge High School

Sponsored by the Student Council Association in cooperation with the Chesapeake Senior Citizens Club

Participants: 65 students, 25 older people

Highlights: Discussions focused on three topics.

A. Planning for the Future
   1. "You are what your job is." When your working days are over, what are you?
   2. To what extent are the young willing to pay to support the old? Can anyone plan to insure self-sufficiency in old age, with accelerating inflation?
   3. Is it fair that older people who work find their social security income reduced as soon as they earn $2520, while wealthy older people can receive unlimited income from investments and not have their social security cut?
   4. Is retirement easier for women than for men? Will it be different if/when the world of work means the same thing to both sexes?

B. Jobs, Transportation and Recreation
   1. If there aren't enough jobs for everyone, should older workers be forced out to open up jobs for young people?
   2. How can you cope with the mechanics of everyday living if you don't have a car in a society that is based on the assumption that everyone drives?
   3. How can you spend time without spending money?
   4. Should older people have special privileges such as reduced fares, free admission, a ceiling on the property tax on their homes--or are these only half-way measures that attempt to compensate for the adverse effects of age discrimination without solving the real problems?

C. Image of Age--Changing Times
   1. In our society, how do young people and old people get their ideas about each other? Is there an "image of age?" An "image of youth?" Are the images accurate?

   2. What does death with dignity mean? Should a person have the right to die? Is modern medicine keeping people alive when they would rather not go on living? Who decides?

GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL--continued

3. How do you feel about getting old? What will you be like when you're 80? What is "old"?
4. In our society, how does change come about? Who makes things happen? If there is something that ought to be changed, what you can do about it?

In most groups, most of the questions were covered in general conversation. Participants "were in agreement with the Charter for Older Americans."

As a result of the conference, additional activities were planned. Several students attended a Senior Citizens meeting and provided entertainment--singing, dancing and playing the guitar. It was reported that both the students and the older people enjoyed the experience very much.

"We also have future plans for a pot-luck supper with the Senior Citizens," the Student Council Association President reported.

A post-conference evaluation was conducted. Summary:

1. What, if anything, do you feel the conference accomplished?
   "90% said it accomplished better relations between the two age groups."

2. What did you like most about the conference? least?
   "90% liked the discussion groups best; 6% disliked the film we selected."

3. Would you like to see more conferences like this?
   "99 and 99/100% said YES!"

Some comments:

(17) "I feel it was a very valuable and beneficial experience for most everyone involved and would highly recommend it to other schools as a means of communication within the community and also as a means of establishing better relations among students as well as other people."

(17) "Personally I found that age is not a discriminating factor between relations but rather a positive factor. I discovered that I had much in common with the older people and their problems and attitudes were very much like my own."

GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

9:00 Registration

9:30 General Session
Business
Welcome
Keynote Address
Order of the Day

10:20 Break

10:40 Discussion Groups--Meeting I*

11:30 Discussion Groups--Meeting II*

12:15 Lunch

12:45 Films
"To be Growing Older" (viewed by students)
"Changing Times in Schools" (viewed by older people)

1:10 Discussion Groups--Meeting III*

2:00 Closing

"Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living and your belief will create the fact." William Jones

*Discussion Topics:

I. Planning for the Future

II. Jobs, Transportation and Recreation

III. Image of Age--Changing Times

Additional information:

Kline Harrison, S.C.A. President and
Rick West, Student Activities Director

Great Bridge High School
441 Battlefield Boulevard, South
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL
Tempe, Arizona

December 11, 1975 8:00 a.m.-3:50 p.m.
Marcos de Niza High School

Sponsored by the Advanced Health Class

Participants: 17 students, 17 older people

Highlights: An entire class sponsored the conference as an instructional project. Planning began soon after school opened in the Fall. A planning board was established and committees were designated to work on: (a) evaluation; (b) how to contact adults; (c) discussion topics; (d) registration packets; (e) invitations; (f) sponsors and contributors; (g) refreshments; (h) advertising.

To prepare for the conference the students invited speakers to the class to discuss age-related topics. Community groups were contacted to assist in inviting older people.

A student artist designed an emblem, representing "the way we feel the world should be involved in an effort for the aged and youth's understanding of each other." Buttons bearing the emblem were prepared for all participants. Information was provided to the news media. A conference program was designed with a welcoming picture of the students and a quotation attributed to Cat Stevens:

> "Don't you feel a change a comin' from the other side of time,
> Knocking down the walls of silence, lifting shadows from your mind?"

Students visited the older participants at their homes with a letter of welcome and an offer to provide transportation. A week before the conference the students conducted the older people on a tour of the school. It was felt that the pre-conference tour was of value in itself; both age groups recommended that such a tour become an annual event.

(70) "We learned a lot just by seeing the school and observing the way classes are conducted and the general atmosphere."

(17) "It was a shock to realize that some people might not want to come to our conference. They think we're all wild. Some of them are afraid of going near the school."

(70) "It wasn't frightening as I thought it might be. We didn't see any hippies."

MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Suggested Revision of the Charter for Older Americans:

"The right--

...to have opportunities to be useful vocationally as well as socially
...to obtain employment based on merit and ability, not on age
...to a fair share of the community's recreational, educational and medical resources
...to humane care and decent housing suited to the needs of later years
...to choose to live independently
...to live and die with dignity "
...to have all current information and services that improve the later years of life, more publicized and available
...to freedom from social, physical and mental 'wants'"

"We strongly believe the conditions of older Americans will improve if these rights are implemented as soon as possible."

"Suggested obligations are--

...to actively plan for retirement
...to share the benefits of experience and knowledge with others
...to maintain your interest in current affairs and voting responsibilities
...to remain active, alert, self-supporting and useful so long as health and circumstances permit
...to seek and develop avenues of service
...to try to adapt to the changes added years will bring
...to maintian relationships with family, neighbors and friends."

The students suggested more conferences "for learning a lot more about older Americans and how much they are like us." Their satisfactions: "New insights and a better understanding between the old and young"--"Stereotypes of both age groups were dissolved"--One thing that makes you old is the way you view yourself"--"Learning that growing old is not as bad as we thought; it can be fun."

MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

8:00	Registration; coffee
8:30	Welcome
9:00	Group Discussions*
10:00	Break
10:15	Group Discussions*
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Group Discussions*
1:30	Break
1:45	Group Discussions*
2:45	Break
2:50	General Session
3:50	Adjournment

*Topics: Psychology of Aging
Financial Difficulties
Communication Between Youth and Aged
Family Relations

"Our Goal: It is the purpose of the people participating in this workshop that a basic understanding be reached as to the needs and issues that affect both youth and old of America."

Additional information:

Student Chairperson:	Carrie Booth	(602) 839-2876
Faculty Advisers:	Dorothy Arenz	(602) 838-3200
	Philip Meurer	(602) 838-3200

Marcos de Niza High School
6000 South Lakeshore Drive
Tempe, Arizona 85283

MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL--continued

At the concluding session of the Conference on Older Americans, a student read the following poem.

THE ENDLESS CIRCLE

There is so little difference
between the very old
and very young . . .
they think so much alike.

Only the in-betweens are trapped
by synthetic inventions of esteem,
who pour their lives into fragile molds
of society, quite thinly wrapped
in tissue paper security.

But children turn to the aged ones
with mist of living in their eyes,
who know the comfort of walking
hand in hand on stormy days,
to the hill's high crest, where together
they can almost touch a rainbow
above their heads . . . a secret place
where they can laugh,
and loiter, and listen
to the whispering grass.

There is so little difference
between the very old
and the very young . . .
they think so much alike.

From Petals From the Moon by Guanetta Gordon; Golden Quill Press, Francestown, New Hampshire 03043. Reprinted by permission of the author and the publishers.

OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL
Oakland, California

January 13, 1976 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church

Sponsored by Oakland High School Student Government, coordinated by the Social Studies Department

Participants: 34 students, 30 older persons

Highlights: The meeting was designated, "The First Annual Youth Conference on Older Americans." On-going activities were set in motion. At the concluding session all students enthusiastically volunteered to respond to requests by older people's organizations to attend and talk with their groups. Following the conference a panel of five students attended a retired persons' luncheon meeting to discuss the conference and its objectives.

Among participants was a member of the Oakland High School Class of 1898, Kenneth A. Grant. AARP, the California Retired Teachers Association, the Trinity Lutheran Church and the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Chruch were represented.

Students and older people considered the conference "very successful." Some factors reported in the evaluation:

"Students volunteered to be involved, and were interested and eager participants.

"A student committee had the freedom and the responsibility to plan the conference.

"The student coordinator was outstanding, and the faculty adviser was experienced and capable in lending imperceptible guidance.

"Some students who 'usually do not do very well in a classroom atmosphere' participated effectively in the conference.

"Older participants were interested and eager to talk with the young people.

"Topics were meaningful to the participants and were approached informally, encouraging flexibility and freedom of discussion.

"No one attempted to dominate the proceedings; there was a minimum of formality and speech-making.

OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL--continued

"Some of the older people were experienced group leaders and, without dominating, contributed to the opening up of discussion and involvement of others.

"Older participants recognized the value to the community and possible future benefits of such a meeting.

"Pleasant and adaptable meeting facilities plus luncheon arrangements with appropriate musical entertainment enhanced the open, positive atmosphere.

"Enthusiasm, good will and enjoyment were contagious."

Some comments:

(70) "As soon as you get your first job you should prepare to retire."

(17) "Why should society say you have to quit working? I really don't want anyone to tell me I have to retire."

(70) "With inflation, nobody is able to prepare for retirement."

(70) "The young can spend what they don't have but the elderly can't get credit, even if they can pay."

(70) "Our ideas of young people are slanted. We only read about the far-out ones. We get the bad picture. The good ones do not make news."

(17) "We asked the paper to send a reporter here but nobody came. We need to mug somebody here to get in the news."

(17) "I always thought old people were senile--until now. You people here are outgoing and healthy."

(17) "You categorize people because you don't know them. The adults you've grown up with, and television, make you think as you do."

(70) "Our affluence causes our problems by separating families. In Yugoslavia the young and the old folks still live together."

(17) "This was super. Let's do it again tomorrow!"

OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

9:00 Registration

9:30 Opening Session
Welcome
Introductions

9:50 Discussion Groups
Topic 1. Relations Between Age Groups

10:40 Conversation Break; Refreshments

11:00 Discussion Groups
Topic 2. Society and Its Problems

12:00 Lunch
Entertainment
Oakland High School Chamber Singers

1:20 Discussion Groups
Topic 3. Common Moral Problems

2:15 General Session
Group Discussion Reports
Open Discussion
Closing Remarks

Additional information:

Mr. Ronald W. Miller
Chairman, Social Studies Department
Oakland High School
3233 Park Boulevard
Oakland, California 94610
(415) 451-1208, extension 42

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Iowa City, Iowa

January 26, 1976 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
West High School

Sponsored by the Student Councils of five secondary schools: Southeast, Central and Northwest junior high schools and West and City senior high schools.

Participants: 65 students, 55 older people

Highlights: Each of the sponsoring schools designated two members of the Student Council to plan the conference. The ten students, with a faculty adviser from each school and the school district coordinator of social studies, held six planning meetings beginning in October, 1975, and an evaluation meeting on February 4.

Students from the planning group plus other Student Council members served as discussion leaders for the conference and conducted the opening and closing sessions.

Community groups assisting were AARP, the Iowa City Recreation Department and the Golden Age Club. Keynote speaker was Dr. H. Lee Jacobs, Associate Professor Emeritus and Consultant on Aging, College of Medicine, University of Iowa.

Some comments:

(17) "I am amazed at how many misconceptions I had of older people. I was so impressed today with how intelligent and open all of you are and how easy it was to be with you."

(70) "Why can't we do this every week?"

Summary of Group Discussions:

I. Is there an image of youth and older people?

Young people and older people had developed stereotypes about each other. Some had accepted the stereotypes as "gospel truth" but most indicated that the common stereotypes are just that--stereotypes. Television is largely responsible for reinforcing stereotypes about youth and older people. No one seemed to know what to do about it.

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT--continued

The problems that the young face today are greater than in the past and some older people stated that they were happy that these problems did not have to be solved by them.

Young and old have more in common with each other than either do with the middle-aged.

II. Should there be a mandatory retirement age?

Retirement was defined as the time when earned income declines significantly or ceases, when you begin a period of prolonged leisure and when you can do what you wish if you are economically independent.

There was general agreement that there should not be a mandatory retirement age and that the greatest problem with retirement is how to prepare for it. Economic and psychological preparations are important.

Selective retirement should replace mandatory retirement and should be based on physical and mental examinations as well as other criteria.

III. Is there a sex role difference between youth and older adults?

There was general agreement that sex role expectations are still in a state of flux.

Attitudes varied from quite liberal to traditional or conservative, but the majority of both young and older people accepted the more liberal views about male and female sex roles. "Housework is for women and income-paying jobs are for men" are ideas that were generally rejected.

IV. Suggestions for Revising the Charter for Older Americans

The obligation "to share the wisdom of age as personal circumstances permit" was emphasized, and a "right" was added:

> "The right to freedom of choice regarding retirement."

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT--continued

Program

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening Session
Welcome
Keynote Address
Announcements

10:00 Discussion Session I: Is there an image of youth and older people?

10:45 Break

11:00 Discussion Session II: Should there be a mandatory retirement age?

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Discussion Session III: Is there a sex role difference for youth and older adults?

1:45 Discussion Session IV: Suggestions for revising the Charter for Older Americans

2:45 General Session
Report on discussions of the Charter

3:15 Closing

Additional information:

Mr. Donald L. Fett
Social Studies Coordinator
Iowa City Community School District
1041 William Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
(319) 338-3685

PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
Parkersburg, West Virginia

January 26, 1976 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
Parkersburg High School Library

Sponsored by members of several classes and members of the staff of Mountain Trace, student magazine of area folklore and culture.

Participants: 46 students, 44 older people

Highlights: Conference packets, provided for all participants included reprints of articles from sources such as Newsweek, Modern Maturity and U.S. News and World Report, concerning current issues, for example, "Age Discrimination in Employment," "Reforming the Pension System," "The Nursing Home Scandal," "The Right to Die," "Can't Get a Credit Card?" and "Day Care for the Elderly."

Speakers included a gerontology teacher at Parkersburg Community College, a director of a foster grandparent program, a nursing home administrator and a funeral home director.

Following the conference, discussions indicated interest in offering a high school course next year that would provide more students with opportunities to learn about older people and aging. Interest was expressed also in informing other schools in the area of the value of a program such as the Youth Conference on Older Americans. Students and older people were enthusiastic about the possibilities.

Some comments:

(17) "The kinds of things that are supposed to help the elderly ought to be put under another name, not 'welfare.' People won't take welfare no matter how much they need things. Especially the elderly." (Note: At Parkersburg the food stamp program is housed at the welfare office.)

(17) "Can't you tell employers that older people can be good workers, so they can get a fair chance at jobs? Where I worked there was one elderly lady and gobs of girls. The elderly lady was always there. She was the reliable one. The girls would just come and go."

(70) "This conference has promoted a better relationship between youth and older citizens."

PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL--continued

In addition to discussing the Charter for Older Americans, a major objective of the Youth Conference was the formation of a course at Parkersburg High School that would continue the involvement of young and old in the community.

For the 1976-77 school year, preparation is being made for offering the course described as follows:

Course Title: Youth and Elderly

Length: One Semester (Monday-Friday)

Department: Social Studies

Credit: 1/2 Year

Description:

"The primary purpose of the course is to encourage the involvement of students in the life of the elderly in our community. The class includes a presentation of programs, problems and actual placement in community service directed towards the elderly."

Goals:

"The student will comprehend the problems and contributions of the elderly. The student will understand existing programs dealing with the elderly. The student will master basic voluntary techniques. The student will select an existing program or design his own in dealing with the elderly. The student will share his experiences with the class."

Expectations:

"Successful participation in classroom activities. Field work in voluntary services with the elderly. Presentation by the student concerning his work and its problems and rewards."

PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

8:30 Registration; coffee and doughnuts

9:00 Welcome, Warm-up, "Why Are We Here?"

9:45 Topic I--"When Someone Dies"

10:45 Break

11:00 Topic II--"What About Money?"

12:00 Lunch: cafeteria
Topic III--"Post Conference Activities"

1:00 Topic IV--"What Do I Do With My Time?"

2:00 Break

2:15 Closing Activities: General Discussion

TO THINK--TO SPEAK--TO BE HEARD--TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Additional information:

Ms. Susan B. Gates
Parkersburg High School
2101 Dudley Avenue
Parkersbury, West Virginia 26101
(304) 485-7941

BRISTOL-SULLIVAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Bristol, Tennessee

February 5, 1976 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
YMCA

Sponsored by the Industrial Cooperative Training Class working through Chapter 9, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America; assisted by students representing Distributive Education Clubs of America and Future Homemakers of America.

Participants: 46 students, 34 older people

Highlights: As a result of the conference, a local advisory committee was formed and held its first meeting on March 3, 1976. Its objectives are in keeping with the thinking of conference participants, reported as follows:

"We feel the Charter for Older Americans is still valid. However, we are of the opinion that senior citizens should have greater input at all (governmental) levels.... Many older Americans are not aware of the agencies that are available... to assist them.

"On a community level we would suggest a needs assessment program be implemented through an advisory committee. The committee should have representation from all existing agencies and most certainly some individual(s) who are senior citizens. Although duties might vary from one community to another we feel that two duties are basic:

a. Identify senior citizens at all economic and educational levels within the community.

b. Recognizing that the needs of senior citizens vary from the basic (food, shelter, medical, etc.) to different educational, recreational and professional ones, the committee must be able to direct individuals to appropriate agencies.

"If within the community a particular need is not being met, the committee should investigate ways to correct the situation and use its influence to implement some positive action, preferably through some existing agency.

"By working through this committee all agencies should be better able to prevent overlapping of programs. Just from the economic standpoint this should free monies to be spent in other areas of need. Of equal importance, senior citizens in time will come to know that they too can have a voice in determining needs assessment and in planning desired activities."

BRISTOL-SULLIVAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL--continued

Other results reported:

1. Both groups became more acutely aware of one another.
2. In a relaxed atmosphere old and young shared ideas, dreams and anxieties.
3. Many stereotypes within both groups were broken down.
4. Pertinent information on aging was passed on to the young.
5. In the eyes and the smiles of the elderly it was evident that their day had been a fruitful one.
6. We were informed that others are interested in conducting a similar conference using our format.

The conference was filmed by WCYB-TV and shown on the 6:00 p.m. news. Newspaper coverage was obtained.

Assisting agencies:

Community Education Department, Bristol, Tennessee City Schools

Social Security Administration Office

Bristol Regional Mental Health Clinic

Bristol, Tennessee Housing Authority

Bristol Nursing Home, Inc.

First Tennessee and Virginia Council on Aging

Upper East Tennessee Human Development Commission on Aging and Nurtition

Senior Citizens of Greater Bristol

YMCA

YWCA

Bristol, Tennessee High School Students

Bristol, Tennessee Schools Administration

University of Tennessee Office on Aging (Nashville)

East Tennessee State University

BRISTOL-SULLIVAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL--continued

Program

9:00	Registration; coffee
9:30	Introduction
9:45	Guest Speaker
10:00	Seminar I*
11:00	Seminar II*
12:00	Luncheon
1:00	Seminar III*
2:00	Seminar IV*
3:00	Closing Remarks

*Topics: The Economics of Retirement

What Are the Changing Needs of Senior Citizens?

Changing Family Values and the Concern for Housing

Positive Perceptions for Sound Mental Health

Additional information:

Judy Paulin, Student Co-Chairperson
Ricky Eggers, Student Co-Chairperson
M.D. Kistner, Faculty Adviser
Bristol-Sullivan Technical School
McDowell Street
Bristol, Tennessee 37620
(615) 764-5247

LEHMAN HIGH SCHOOL
Sidney, Ohio

February 8, 1976 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Lehman High School

Sponsored by the National Honor Society

Participants: Due to bad weather there were only 20 students and 6 older people

Highlights: Almost everyone agreed that there was little revision needed in the Charter for Older Americans. One comment was that "freedom from want" should be clarified to "freedom from want of all necessities." The obligation to "plan for retirement" should be excluded since most older Americans are already retired.

A student chairperson headed the conference planning, and four chairpersons for the discussion topics were chosen from among the members of the National Honor Society.

The students asked each member to invite someone. A pot-luck dinner was planned. Planning problems reported included difficulty in arousing interest among people of both age groups. The student chairperson reported, "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves even though most went into the conference a little hesitantly."

Some comments:

(70) "It was most interesting to find the young so interested and well informed."

(70) "We should have more of this."

(17) "It's good to hear different viewpoints and see how other groups of people see things."

(17) "I enjoyed it very much. I was glad to see older people as they really are, and not how I imagined older people to be."

Additional information:

Shirley Stelzner, Student Chairperson
Sister Dorothy William, Faculty Adviser
Lehman High School
St. Mary Road
Sidney, Ohio 45365
(513) 492-4609

O. PERRY WALKER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
New Orleans, Louisiana

February 11, 1976 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
O. Perry Walker Senior High School

Sponsored by the Walker Chapter of the National Honor Society and the New Orleans West Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons

Theme: "Rechartering Our Course"

Participants: 60 students, 65 older people

Highlights: Discussion Topics

I. Image of Age: 65--Do we think that's old?

II. Living Independently: Do we like it?

III. Modern Medicine: Do we have the right to die?

IV. Service: Can we spend time without spending money?

Some comments:

(70) "People are different. They're not alike just because they're the same age. Grouping people as 65 and over should not be done."

(70) "Is there anybody here who objects to saying, 'I don't want to live if I'm going to be a vegetable.'?"
(No disagreement was expressed; much agreement.)

(17) "I didn't know that people lose their social security when they work. Around here there are a lot of people getting Navy pensions. They work and they don't lose anything. If you earn the right to social security, you ought to be able to go out and get another job the same as all the ones on government pensions."

(17) "This conference did a lot to shatter any preconceived notions we had about each other."

O. PERRY WALKER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

8:45 Registration

9:15 Opening Session
- Welcome
- Invocation
- Keynote Address
- Announcements

9:45 Discussion Groups*

10:15 Break

10:30 Discussion Groups*

11:00 Discussion Groups*

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Discussion Groups*

1:30 The Charter for Older Americans
(Four Discussion Groups)

2:00 General Session

2:30 Closing

*Topics are repeated; participants change

I. Image of Age: 65--Do we think that's old?

II. Living Independently: Do we like it?

III. Modern Medicine: Do we have the right to die?

IV. Service: Can we spend time without spending money?

Additional information:

Dr. Robert Gaut, Principal
O. Perry Walker Senior High School
2832 General Meyer Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114
(504) 362-7075

POUDRE HIGH SCHOOL
Fort Collins, Colorado

February 18, 1976 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Poudre High School

Sponsored by Poudre High School Student Council

Participants: 50 students, 50 older people

Highlights: Two conferences were held. The first conference served as an ice-breaker, with the objective of establishing an understanding between the two age groups "as well as being comfortable with each other."

The second conference included a speaker, a chili supper, entertainment by student groups, and a series of discussions.

"Human Relations and Communications Between Youth and Senior Citizens" was the topic of the keynote address.

Discussion groups considered Youth-Senior Community Relationships, Family Relationships, and the subject of Youth and Senior Citizens as Individuals.

To supplement its written report, the Student Council provided an audio tape of the conference proceedings.

According to the Student Committee Chairperson, "Of the fifty Senior Citizens present, being representative of the majority of the Senior Citizen organizations, all comments were gratifying. . . . It was a learning experience for the youth as well as a profitable one. . . . I am happy to say that the conference 'opened up' the youth and the Senior Citizens and is bringing us together on various activities."

Additional information:

Diane Davis, Chairman of Committee
Poudre High School Student Council
Poudre High School
201 Impala Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL
Washington, D.C.

February 25, 1976 2:00-4:45 p.m.
Roosevelt High School

Sponsored by the Student Government of Roosevelt High School in cooperation with the Institute of Gerontology, Federal City College

Participants: 35 students, 33 older people

Highlights: Six small groups of students and older people discussed the following topics with adult and student co-leaders:

What Makes Later Life Beautiful

Economic Problems and the Elderly

Myths and Realities of Aging

The Older Person in Other Cultures

The Family's Response to the Elderly--The Elderly's Response to the Family

The Community's Response to the Elderly--The Elderly's Response to the Community

Some conclusions, reported by student leaders:

"The older person wants to be free, the same as you do, without anyone telling you what to do."

"We want to ask the school board to let us have a course in money management and financial planning for later life so we won't have some of these problems."

"Our group attacked the symbols, especially the rocking chair. It's a myth that old people are not agressive; some are very aggressive."

"Age 65 should not mean forced retirement. A person who is capable should be allowed to continue on the job."

"Not every old person is wise. Some are foolish. It's wrong to refer to old people 'on the whole.' They are individuals like everyone else."

"Old people are human too. We all will be old one day."

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL--continued

"We should let old people have the experience of going to school."

"Ads for clothes in the United States always show young, slender models. That isn't true everywhere."

"Older people have had experience. They know what they're talking about."

"We learned that, with Medicare, the elderly pay more and more, and get less and less."

"Because of this chance to talk things over, I think younger people are beginning to feel more comfortable around old people."

"This discussion made me aware of life and the necessity for changing things. I plan to be in a position to change things, and it will be my first objective."

Following the conference, some statements were prepared concerning the Charter for Older Americans:

"Education should be broader on both ends for everyone's later-life personal accomplishments."

"A new definition of 'old' will help to bring youth closer to the elderly. One is 'old' when he doesn't see any beauty in life any more."

"Youth can divert the mental patterns that label some 'groups' and elderly people will become a 'group' because of their dependence. . .unless there is respect for each of them as an individual and more clarifications of misunderstandings."

"As a responsibility (or obligation) Older Americans should accept youth advocates in a public role based on youth's determination that youth sees a need to be concerned seriously, based on a willingness that youth has, and based on its ability with full understanding that roles change just as lifestyles and all of this without infringing on the independence and pride of Older Americans."

As an action project, the Student Government sent a letter urging the Mayor of the District of Columbia to expedite the Commission on the Aged. It was also recommended that a student be appointed to the Commission.

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

Welcome and Introductions
Purpose of the Conference
The Charter for Older Americans and Volunteerism

Refreshments

Group Discussions
What Makes Later Life Beautiful
Economic Problems and the Elderly
Myths and Realities of Aging
The Older Person in Other Cultures
The Elderly and the Family
The Elderly and the Community

Panel Presentation, Group Discussion Reports

Closing Remarks

A film, "Three Grandmothers," depicting three cultures, was shown during the pre-conference registration period.

The program included acknowledgment of the assistance of the Roosevelt High School Student Service Corps and the Division of Services to the Aging, plus a parent who regularly assists the Student Government.

Additional information:

Mrs. Palestine S. Hill
Student Government Adviser
Roosevelt High School
4301 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

Mr. Clavin Fields, Director
Institute of Gerontology
Federal City College
425 Second Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

MOUNT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
Thorndike, Maine

March 5, 1976 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Mount View High School

Sponsored by the Mount View Chapter of Future Homemakers of America with financial assistance from the Student Council.

Participants: 52 students, 76 older people

Highlights: Topics selected for discussion were Housing; Insurance and Social Security; Economics of Aging; Family Relationships; Health and Medicine; Recreation and Leisure Time; Stereotypes of Youth and Age.

Community groups assisting were Waldo County Committee for Social Action, Maine State Bureau of Elderly, Retired Teachers Association, three senior citizens' groups, local Social Security office, Unity Branch of the Federal Bank, and a local insurance agency. Furrows, Mount View student publication, also participated. Fifteen Maine communities were represented at the conference.

Some suggestions offered in discussing the Charter for Older Americans:

(17) "I would like to see it fulfilled. We have not come very far in implementing changes that would allow for these rights to be realized. I don't see President Ford doing too much to help."

(70) "Social security payments should continue to each partner in an older citizen marriage to prevent living in sin."

(17) "Concerning the right to live and die with dignity, this should be for everyone."

(70) "There needs to be improvement in the protection for people in nursing homes."

(70) "We need improvements in social security."

(70) "Even with Medicare the costs are high. We need more help with medical bills."

(17) "There should be more places for older people to live. I don't feel the older Americans should have to live in nursing homes."

MOUNT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL--continued

The greatest satisfaction reported by the students was to have the older participants come to them personally with thanks and appreciation, expressing their pleasure at the friendliness, courtesy and helpfulness of the students. Many stated that it was a well-planned conference and that the discussion groups were relevant and worthwhile. Some mentioned especially the humorous participation in some of the groups, and the frank comments. Participants reported that the discussion group leaders were down-to-earth and allowed everyone to participate. One of the chief sources of satisfaction for the students was the fact that everyone was happy and the meeting established a relationship between the two groups for the first time. "The older people of this area now feel that Mount View High School has a place for them."

"The only problems...were: time limitations in discussion groups especially the groups on stereotypes of youth and age, family relationships and economics of aging; and the acoustics in the general assembly meeting which was held in the gymnasium.

"If starting over again, we would not do anything differently because the handbook prepared by the National Retired Teachers Association was all-inclusive.

"Due to the fact that, on the evaluation sheets, all participants except one stated that they would like to see more conferences like this, the students at Mount View High School seem eager to organize a second conference during the Fall of 1976. This conference would include more strictly informational material on wills and estates, recreation, hobbies, educational resources, housing, retirement planning, health, plus a chance for people to socialize and to discuss more personal problems. This conference would be designed to help people who are about to retire to meet the obligations stated in the Charter."

Some anonymous, written comments about the conference:

(70) "This was an excellent way to have age groups work together to understand each other's views."

(70) "What I liked most was the feeling of togetherness."

(17) "It helped bring people closer. Middle-aged people should be able to come."

MOUNT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

9:30 Registration

9:45 General Session
Welcome
Introductions

10:00 Keynote Address

10:45 Hospitality Break: Coffee

11:00 Discussion Groups, Period I*

11:3' First Lunch Period/Discussion Groups, Period II*

12:15 Second Lunch Period/Discussion Groups, Period II*

1:00 Discussion Groups, Period III*

1:45 All Groups Discuss Charter for Older Americans

2:15 Break; Coffee

2:30 General Session
Group Reports
Open Discussion

3:15 Conference Evaluation

3:30 Adjournment; Time to Socialize

*Topics: Housing
Insurance and Social Security
Economics of Aging
Family Relationships
Health and Medicine
Recreation and Leisure Time
Stereotypes of Youth and Age
Furrows (Student Publication)

Additional information:

Leora Mitchell, Student Chairperson
Anna E. Rogers and David Day, Faculty Advisers
Mount View High School
Thorndike, Maine 04986

TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL
Trumbull, Connecticut

March 17, 1976 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Trumbull High School

Sponsored by the Vocational Education Department

Participants: 108 students, 75 older people

Highlights: One immediate result of the conference was a school decision to provide senior citizens with free passes to all football and basketball games. Also resulting from the conference enthusiasm was a decision to continue such conferences in the future.

Both students and older people voiced concern about lack of adequate transportation and about the cost of recreation.

Discussion of housing produced recommendations for more housing for older people of all income groups, more government aid, and more organized pressure from older people and young families working together to change restrictive zoning which makes housing costly in Trumbull. As a beginning, a meeting of representatives from ten senior groups was planned.

Discussion of assisting older people with incidental tasks focused on suggestions of methods of implementing assistance, such as establishing a clearinghouse of students able and willing to help.

Suggestions for revising the Charter for Older Americans:
Rights--

1. The right to be safe from crime on the streets and in the home.
2. The right to work with no restriction or penalties on the amount of money made.
3. The right to continue education at reduced cost.
4. The right to medical attention through reduced medical fees.

Obligations--

1. To assist those nearing retirement with a planning program.
2. To volunteer our experience and knowledge to those whom we might help.

Four months of planning activity preceded the conference. Thirteen groups of older people were represented. News media provided pre- and post-conference coverage.

TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

8:30 Registration

9:00 Music, Trumbull High School Madrigal Singers

9:15 General Session
- Welcome
- Introductory Remarks
- Keynote Address
- Announcements

10:00 Break; refreshments

10:15 Discussion Groups*

11:00 Discussion, Charter for Older Americnas

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Discussion Groups*

1:15 General Session
- Report on Charter Revision
- Reports from Discussion Groups
- Closing Remarks

*Topics:
- Transportation for Senior Citizens in Trumbull
- Housing for Senior Citizens in Trumbull
- Assistance with Incidental Tasks (Snow removal, window washing, shopping, etc.)
- Cultural and Educational Opportunities for Senior Citizens

Additional information:

Mr. Frederick Dirga
Adviser, Youth-Senior Conference
Trumbull High School
72 Stroebel Road
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611
(203) 261-6411, extension 246

ATLANTIC CITY HIGH SCHOOL
Atlantic City, New Jersey

March 24, 1976 9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
All Wars Memorial Building

Sponsored by the Atlantic City High School Humanities Class and the National Honor Society

Participants: 30 students and 30 older people

Highlights: The enthusiastic cooperation of older people and students at the conference held promise of becoming a useful force in the community with assistance from community leaders participating in the conference including a local television personality known for advocacy of good and useful programs. A typical comment at the closing session:

"This meeting is different because the young people initiated it. The young people are non-partisan. They're not working for any selfish interest. Now that we've established a connection between young and old we can get some things done in this community."

Student planning for the conference began in October, 1975. Preparations included the distribution of flyers publicizing the conference in a number of residential centers for older adults.

Cooperating agencies included the Atlantic County Office on Aging, which invited conference participants to designate two delegates to a county-wide caucus on the Charter for Older Americans, in preparation for a similar meeting at the State Capitol. A student and an older person were appointed to attend, from among many volunteers.

The advance preparation of Humanities students and their personal commitment to the success of the conference contributed to the positive atmosphere. Many of the older participants were experienced in group activity; some were currently enrolled in a community college course in volunteer leadership.

Some comments:

(70) "It's good to know that not all the young people are against the senior citizens."

(17) "Both age groups are discriminated against. We can't get decent treatment when we go into restaurants because they expect we won't tip well."

ATLANTIC CITY HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

9:45 Registration

10:15 General Session
Welcome
Introductions
Opening Remarks

10:45 Workshop I*

11:45 Break; refreshments

12:00 Workshop II*

1:00 General Session
Discussion Reports
Closing Remarks

*Three discussion groups are held during each workshop. Participants may choose among the following:

A. Public Safety--Self-protection; Transportation Problems.

B. Financial Problems--Consumer Affairs, Income; Improving Communications with Older Americans.

C. Community Education and Recreational Opportunities; Health, Welfare and Housing.

Additional information:

Mr. George Ashmen
Atlantic City High School
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08402
(609) 344-7081

MCDOWELL HIGH SCHOOL
Marion, North Carolina

March 31, 1976 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
McDowell High School

Sponsored by the Student Council

Participants: 50 students, 50 older people

Highlights: The success of the conference resulted in plans for on-going activities involving the two generations. Examples:

Two students now are serving as members of the local Council on Aging.

The Interact Club at the high school has taken on, as a project, a "Call-A-Shut-In" program, with calls to be made at least once a week.

A report on the conference has been prepared for the County Commissioners.

Other planned activities include establishing a class on Southern Appalachian Handicrafts; planning an annual Student Council project involving older people; conducting a poll of older residents to learn about their needs and interests; and having a monthly "jam session" for young and old, with different resource people each month.

The conference was widely publicized by the news media, including television stations in Charlotte and Asheville as well as the local radio station and newspaper.

Public and private organizations assisted with background information, materials for registrants' packets, and contributions of flowers, food, cash and services.

The consensus of group discussions of the Charter for Older Americans was, "The Charter is fine on paper; however, it needs to be enforced." Some suggestions:

(17) "There should be more national emphasis on making the Charter an actuality rather than an ideal."

(70) "The words, 'with no restriction,' should be added to 'the right to obtain employment, based on merit.'"

(70) "Programs should be established so Americans can prepare for old age sooner."

MCDOWELL HIGH SCHOOL--continued

(17) "Being a vegetable at death is not 'dying with dignity.' Young and old alike should be given the choice of death if they are totally dependent upon a machine."

(70) "I would like the opportunity to make more money after retirement than the government allows."

(17) "Transportation is a problem for young and old. Some form of transportation should be made available."

(70) "I love to read but I have no way to get to the library. I wish a mail-a-book club could be organized."

(17) "Senior citizens should be more informed about their legal rights."

The report emphasized that "the conference really helped to bridge the 'generation gap,'" and stated, "As a matter of fact, there really isn't a generation gap." In post-conference evaluation, anonymous comments from participants often included the phrases "the togetherness" and "the friendly atmosphere" in response to the question, "What did you like most about this conference?" Some other comments:

(17) "The youth and the older Americans have a lot in common."

(17) "I found out they have almost the same needs that we do."

(17) "The young and old are on an equal basis with each other and can communicate and have lots of fun."

(17) "I think if more schools had the same conference as we have had, this would be a lot better world and people would understand and love each other a lot more."

(17) "I've gained knowledge that I otherwise would have missed completely. I was surprised to see that our interests and thoughts were so close together."

(70) "I have a better understanding of the aims and goals of our young people."

(70) "The conference produced a better understanding of the age in which we live."

(70) "This gave us the impetus for action. Now to start the ball rolling!"

MCDOWELL HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening Session
- Invocation
- Presentation of Colors
- The National Anthem
- Welcome
- Entertainment
- Keynote Address

10:00 Film

10:30 Discussion Group*

11:00 Lunch

11:50 Discussion Group*

12:30 Discussion Group*

1:10 Refreshments; Entertainment

1:30 Discussion Group--Charter for Older Americans

2:00 Closing Session
- Reports on Charter for Older Americans
- Open Discussion
- Conference Evaluation

*Discussion Topics:
- Counseling for the Aged
- Health Care and Problems
- Images of Young and Old
- Literary Guidepost
- Recreation for the Aged
- You and the Law

Additional information:

Beth Barlowe, Student Chairperson
Ted B. Freeman, Principal
McDowell High School
Route 6, Box 1
Marion, North Carolina 28752
(704) 652-3721

PART II.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED ACTIVITIES

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL
East Allen County Schools
Monroeville, Indiana

October 27-30, 1975 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. daily
Heritage High School Library

Sponsored by the American Studies Bicentennial Class

"Convention on the Elderly"

Participants: 83 students, 20 teachers and administrators, 15 older people

"The conference was designed as a national political convention of 'Gray Panthers.' Each student represented a state with voting rights and also represented a political viewpoint, liberal, conservative or moderate. Each student participated in caucus groups, discussing issues and preparing resolutions, and participated also in events on the convention floor, in lobbying activities and demonstrations."

The "convention" adopted several "resolutions." Their highlights:

Forced Retirement--"An employer cannot force an employee out of employment unless the employer has sufficient evidence that the employee is incapable of completing his job satisfactorily."

Retirement Income--"A law shall be passed stating that all employees' pension plans, social security and retirement funds shall (keep pace) with the rising cost of living."

Transportation--"All those over 65 (shall) get 25% off the cost of all public transportation."

Recreation--"As of January 1, 1977, there (shall be) government funds given to the city for elderly recreation."

Right to Die--"A law shall be passed stating any person mentaliy incapable of living by the power of his own organs without any great discomfort should be permitted to die by the consent of his guardians or self."

Nursing Homes--"By January 1, 1978 nursing homes will comply with...government standards or their licenses will be revoked. ...As of January 1976, a registered nurse shall be provided for around the clock care for each ten patients....A commission, 50% of whose membership is 65 or older, (shall be) set up to accept or refuse government standards."

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL--continued

Program Excerpts

Monday, October 27

8:05--9:00 a.m.	General Session Welcome, Roll Call, Keynote Address Presentation of Issue: "Nursing Homes"
9:00--9:35 a.m.	Caucus Groups--Nursing Homes
9:35--10:00 a.m.	Presentation of Resolutions; Voting

Tuesday, October 28

8:05--8:15 a.m.	General Session Presentation of Issue: Retirement; Forced Retirement"
8:20--8:55 a.m.	Caucus Groups
8:55--9:20 a.m.	Presentation of Resolutions; Voting
9:20--9:55 a.m.	Musical Presentation

Wednesday, October 29

8:05--8:35 a.m.	General Session Presentation of Issues: "Mobility/ Recreation" and "Right to Die"
8:35--9:10 a.m.	Caucus Groups
9:10--9:30 a.m.	Rally; Demonstrations; Slide/Tape Show
9:30--10:00 a.m.	Presentation of Resolutions; Voting

Thursday, October 30

8:05--8:30 a.m.	Presentation of Total Platform
8:30--8:45 a.m.	Chairman Response to Delegates Charge to Delegates Closing

Additional information:

Ms. Judith Najib
Chairman, Social Studies
Heritage High School
13608 Monroeville Road, R.R. 2
Monroeville, Indiana 46773
(219) 623-6114

ATOKA HIGH SCHOOL
Atoka, Oklahoma

November 19, 1975

The Student Council of Atoka High School presented a panel discussion at a regular meeting of the Atoka County Retired Teachers Association.

The RTA reported, "This was important in bringing the youth and elderly closer in understanding and a better relationship. It was discovered that we have several things in common. The students were asked to revise the Charter for Older Americans which was adopted in 1961.... We believe the conference was worthwhile."

The Student Council reported, "The Charter appeared adequate to all of the needs of the elderly....

> "Our only wishes would be that all of the rights would be carried out.
>
> "We think that cheaper transportation for the elderly, lowered taxes for the retired, and lower medical rates would be the only changes we would like to have enforced.
>
> "A mini-bus for the old would help elderly people make it to doctor appointments a lot easier."

Additional information:

Julie Kay, Student Council Secretary
David Morris, Student Council President
Atoka High School
Atoka, Oklahoma 74525

Mrs. Carrie Lou Limb Brothers
President, Atoka County Retired Teachers Association
405 North Murray Avenue
Atoka, Oklahoma 74525

PORTSMOUTH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
435 Washington Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

Excerpts from a letter to "Youth Conferences on Older Americans" from Mrs. Lillian A. Hall, National Honor Society Adviser, Portsmouth Catholic High School:

"The enclosed proposal was approved by our principal and has been met with enthusiasm by our Honor Society members.

"Our members felt that, rather than plan a conference that would last one day, they prefer a continuing project. It was decided that the students choose to periodically visit one of three centers that serve older Americans, and that they develop a continuing relationship with one or several of the participants.

"About twice a month a part of the school day is set aside to allow the Honor Society members to carry out this commitment. For this visitation the students may elect to receive 1/8 credit in Christian Life Studies.

"We have also organized a party for one of the homes, and expect to have a luncheon or picnic later in the spring for those who are able to participate.

"We did find your Handbook useful in helping us verbalize what we hoped to accomplish, and to give us some ideas as to what areas of communication could be used as 'ice-breakers.' We thank you for your help."

Included with the letter was a schedule. Three students were listed for visiting the Manning Convalescent Home on December 4, January 5 and 21, February 9 and 26, March 16, April 1 and 26, and May 13.

Four students were listed for visiting the Senior Citizens Center on December 9, January 8 and 27, February 1, March 2 and 19, April 7 and 29, and May 18.

Four students were listed for visiting the Portsmouth Convalescent Home on December 10, January 9 and 28, February 13, March 3 and 22, April 8, May 13 and 19.

Student visits are scheduled from 12:15 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

To receive credit if elected, a student keeps a journal recording the visits and will write a paper on concerns of senior citizens.

GLENBARD EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Lombard, Illinois

March 23, 1976 and following

"On March 23, 1976 the first phase of a two-phase program was held....

"The idea of Phase I was to have a social day with the senior citizens which would include discussion groups.

"Fifty-three senior citizens met with an equal number of students. Students represented all four years in school; most were members of the Student Council.

"Welcome statements from the superintendent, principal and student council president started the day. A mixer game was used to introduce individuals from both age groups, followed by refreshments.

"Discussion groups were formed. The first half hour was used for general discussion, with 21 suggested topics available for consideration. In the last half hour, groups discussed, 'The American School, Past and Present.'"

Participants then toured the building, and were luncheon guests of the Student Council. The school's Dixieland Band provided entertainment.

"Senior citizens and students had a very enjoyable and educational day," according to the report.

"Phase 2 of the program is now going into effect. Senior citizens are talking or taking part in the classrooms. A new phase has been added as the senior citizens have invited students to their meetings and activities."

Additional information:

William E. Rider, Principal
Glenbard East High School
1014 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
(312) 627-9250

STATE OF HAWAII
Department of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

February 13, 1976

Memo to: All District Superintendents and
District Student Council Advisers

From: Charles G. Clark, Superintendent

Subject: Delegate Selection for Governor's Conference on Aging

Governor George R. Ariyoshi has invited one student from each public and private high school to attend the Governor's Conference on Aging, June 8-11, 1976, at the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel. The Commission on Aging will work with the private high schools on their selections. For the public high schools, each of the seven District Student Councils is being requested to make the selection using the following suggested procedure:

1. Select a March, 1976, District Council Meeting date; contact a resource speaker from your locale to speak on the topic of aging and give some orientation to the Conference (resource list attached); request all high school principals to permit all interested students to attend this meeting.

2. After the meeting, allow students to sign up if interested in attending Conference. Note is made that Oahu students will not be housed at the hotel. They must commute daily. Seniors are also eligible.

3. The District Council will review the sign-up list of interested students and make the final selection. Each District is entitled to as many delegates as there are high schools. If a school does not have any interested student, the District Council may allot that position to another school.

4. The District Council is encouraged to develop its own specific selection criteria. . . .

We request that every attempt be made to submit the final list to the Commission on Aging by Friday, April 1, 1976. Questions may be referred to Mrs. Evangeline Barney, phone 548-3875.

NORTHWEST BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON YOUNGER AND OLDER AMERICANS
Spokane, Washington

April 8 and 9, 1976
Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Washington

Sponsored by Eastern Washington State College in affiliation with University of Idaho, Washington State University, University of Oregon, Whitworth College, Gonzaga University, Spokane Falls Community College, Fort Wright College, University of Washington, Washington Recreation and Park Society.

Participants: 74 persons of ages 17-30; 52 persons of ages 31-50; 90 persons 51 years and older

The purposes of the conference were: (1) to reduce stereotypes and misconceptions of both age groups, by both age groups; (2) to bring together professionals, younger and older Americans to communicate common problems; (3) to provide professional information for clarification on common issues; (4) to meet the request of President Ford on updating current issues and attitudinal changes of the Youth and the Elderly of our society.

The Charter for Older Americans was a focus for sixteen topic sessions, providing stimulus for discussion.

The conference summary included a statement of 28 rights; among those specified:

Freedom from financial want; adequate housing; medical care.

Eliminate age discrimination--retirement from working based on diminishing ability rather than abrupt calendar age.

Personal safety through a National Crime Prevention Program.

Reasonable and adequate transportation.

Tax relief; adopt a Uniform Probate Code.

No-fault automobile insurance.

Volunteer programs for and by senior citizens; strongly recommended was specific training in accepting the aging as they are. Training of para-professionals for home health care.

Additional information: Janice L. MacGregor
Eastern Washington State College
Cheney, Washington 99004

IOWA HOME ECONOMISTS

April 6, 1976

To: Youth Conferences on Older Americans

From: Mrs. J.L. Davies
150 Oak Ridge
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

"We tried to arouse interest through the Home Economics Association in Iowa but do not know of any results. However, based on your approach--Youth/Age Interaction--the Iowa Home Economics Association has made a grant to me to conduct a survey of IHEA members for attitudes toward and knowledge of aging.

"Using information obtained, the University of Iowa, Home Economics Department, is planning to develop a unit on aging for programming in Future Homemakers of America groups in Iowa and possibly for wider distribution later.

"The Handbook was extremely useful for us."

PART III.

ADDITIONAL 1975-76 YOUTH CONFERENCES ON OLDER AMERICANS

REPORTED AS OF APRIL 15, 1976

William H. Hall High School
975 North Main Street
West Hartford, Connecticut 06117
Conference date: October 29, 1975
Contact: Dr. Robert E. Dunn, Principal

Juab High School
146 North Main
Nephi, Utah 84648
Conference date: October 30, 1975
Contact: Arlene Carter, Student Body President

Notre Dame High School
24 Ricardo Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516
Conference date: October, 1975
Contact: Brother Jerome Donally

De Laura Junior High School
300 Jackson Avenue
Satellite Beach, Florida 32901
Conference date: November 3, 1975
Contact: Frederick L. Perlee, Student Council Adviser

Wolcott High School
457 Bourdlk Road
Wolcott, Connecticut 06716
Conference date: November 24, 1975
Contact: Robert Gerace, National Honor Society Adviser

John Glenn High School
330 Cuba Hill Road
Huntington, New York 11743
Conference date: January 23, 1976
Contact: George W. Ostrander

Tott High School
3800 Fall City Carnation, N.E.
Carnation, Washington 98074
Conference date: January 28, 1976
Contact: C.L. Rice, Principal

Inglemoor High School
15400 Simonds Road
Bothell, Washington 98011
Conference date: January 28, 1976
Contact: Martin Trammell, Honor Society Vice President

Nutley High School
300 Franklin Avenue
Nutley, New Jersey 07110
Conference date: January, 1976
Contact: L.C. Zwirek, Principal

Centaurus High School
10300 South Boulder Road
Lafayette, Colorado 80026
Conference date: April 6, 1976
Contact: Dolores T. Forbis, National Honor Society Sponsor

Cypress Lake Senior High School
Panther Lane
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
Conference date: February 19, 1976
Contact: Eric Keim, National Honor Society

St. Leonard's Academy
3833 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
Conference date: February 28, 1976
Contact: Regina M. Phalan, Student Council

Archbishop Carroll High School
211 Matson Ford Road
Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087
Conference date: March 4, 1976
Contact: Brother Joseph Mahon, Principal

Curwensville Area High School
Beech Street
Curwensville, Pennsylvania 16833
Conference date: March 6, 1976
Contact: Karen Humes, National Honor Society Sponsor

Mount Vernon High School
Mount Vernon, New York 10550
Conference date: March 6, 1976
Contact: Natalie L. Myerson, National Honor Society Adviser

Ryken High School
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
Conference date: March 10, 1976
Contact: Brother Julian Riley, National Honor Society Moderator

Sidwell Friends School
3825 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
Conference date: May 12, 1976
Contact: Carla Gelband

Oak Hill High School
7756 West Delphi Pike
Converse, Indiana 46919
Conference date: March 11, 1976
Contact: Mrs. T.A. Torgerson, National Honor Society Sponsor

Miller Place High School
Memorial Drive
Miller Place, New York 11764
Conference date: March 11, 1976
Contact: Edward Zapke, National Honor Society

Ursuline High School
750 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44509
Conference date: March 12, 1976
Contact: Father Daniel M. Venglarik

Villa Maria Academy
600 Doat Street
Buffalo, New York 14211
Conference date: March 14, 1976
Contact: Sister Suzanne Marie

W.L. Dickinson High School
2 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306
Conference date: March 18, 1976
Contact: M.J. Pallodino, National Honor Society Adviser

The Fieldston School
Fieldston Road
Bronx, New York 10471
Conference date: March 25, 1976
Contact: Claudia Rose, Director of Student Activities

Allendale-Fairfax High School
R.F.D. 2, Box 222
Fairfax, South Carolina 29827
Conference date: March 25, 1976
Contact: Virgie K. Reeves, National Honor Society Sponsor

Nantucket High School
Atlantic Avenue
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554
Conference date: March 26, 1976
Contact: Barbara Linebaugh

Alleman High School
1303 40th Street
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Conference date: March 27, 1976
Contact: Sister Kathleen Carr

Cranston High School West
80 Metropolitan Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920
Conference date: April 12, 1976
Contact: Mrs. Sandra Jarrow

Warren Harding High School
1734 Central Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06618
Conference date: March 29, 1976
Contact: Miss Susan L. Spivack

Greenville Senior High School
111 North Hillcrest
Greenville, Michigan 48838
Conference date: March 29, 1976
Contact: Clark Oliver, Principal

Madison East High School
2222 East Washington
Madison, Wisconsin 53704
Conference date: March 31, 1976
Contact: Dale Watt

Hauppauge High School
Lincoln Boulevard
Hauppauge, New York 11787
Conference date: April 1, 1976
Contact: Richard N. Suprina, Principal

Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School
Germantown Pike
Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania 19662
Conference date: April 2, 1976
Contact: Robert Vrzillo

Garrison High School
211 Fielding Road
Evansville, Indiana 47715
Conference date: April 3, 1976
Contact: Jennifer A. Headlee, Mayor's Youth Council

Villa Victoria Academy
River Road
Trenton, New Jersey 08628
Conference date: April 7, 1976
Contact: Sister Lillian Harrington, Student Council Adviser

Minot High School Central Campus
215 1st Street, S.E.
Minot, North Dakota 58701
Conference date: April 7, 1976
Contact: Martha Holum, National Honor Society Adviser

South High School
1101 Planz Road
Bakersfield, California 93304
Conference date: April 10, 1976
Contact: Miss Tami Elliott, General Chairperson

Council Rock High School
Swamp Road
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940
Conference date: April 12, 1976
Contact: Robert R. James, National Honor Society Adviser

Sts. Peter & Paul High School
P.O. Box 1706
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801
Conference date: April 12, 1976
Contact: Mark C. Marin, Director of Guidance

Ledyard High School
24 Gallup Hill Road
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339
Conference date: April 14, 1976
Contact: Leo P. Savoil, Chairman, Social Studies Department

Wantaugh High School
Wantaugh, New York 11797
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Gloria Kantor, Honor Society Adviser

St. Dominic High School
351 San Jose Drive
O'Fallon, Missouri 63366
Conference date: April 19, 1976
Contact: Sister M. Lucy

Bellows Falls Union High School
Route 5 South
Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101
Conference date: April 20, 1976
Contact: Jean J. Blacketor

St. Peter's High School
104 West 1st
Mansfield, Ohio 44903
Conference date: April 24, 1976
Contact: Miss G. De la Pena

St. Teresa High School
2700 North Water
Decatur, Illinois 62521
Conference date: April 25, 1976
Contact: Jeff Hannapel

Thunderbird High School
1750 West Thunderbird
Phoenix, Arizona 85023
Conference date: April, 1976
Contact: Ron G. Sipus

Clark College
5565 East Evergreen Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington 98661
Conference date: April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 1976
Contact: Dr. Alfred Apsler, Director, Programs on Aging

Lynnwood Senior High School
3001 184th, S.W.
Lynnwood, Washington 98036
Conference date: April 15, 1976
Contact: J.R. Karnofski, Principal

Montgomery College
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Conference date: March 1, 1975
Contact: Susan Christen, Community Services

Greater Latrobe High School West
P.O. Box 452
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650
Conference date: May 3, 1976
Contact: Thomas J. Marshall, Sociology

Academy of Our Lady of Peace
4860 Oregon
San Diego, California 92116
Conference date: May 6, 1976
Contact: Sister Monika Fleck

Johnstown Vocational Technical School
445 Schoolhouse Road
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904
Conference date: May 15, 1976
Contact: Michael R. Pribish, Principal

Alverno High School
200 North Michillinda
Sierra Madre, California 91106
Conference date: May 15, 1976
Contact: M.L. Anderson

Whitehall Senior High School
813 Slocum Street
Whitehall, Michigan 49461
Conference date: May 17, 1976
Contact: R.S. Kavgian, Assistant Principal

Genesee High School
Box 98
Genesee, Idaho 83832
Conference date: May 25-28, 1976
Contact: Roger L. Woehl, Principal

Barrington High School
616 West Main Street
Barrington, Illinois 60010
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: Zack Zoul, Student Federation President

London High School
60 South Walnut Street
London, Ohio 43140
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: Elizabeth Puckett

Enfield High School
Enfield Street
Enfield, Connecticut 06082
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: E. Boland

Brewer High School
1000 South Cherry Lane
Fort Worth, Texas 76135
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: Sandra Dear

Royal Oak Kimball High School
1500 Lexington Boulevard
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: J.H. Stephan

Buckingham County High School
Buckingham, Virginia 23921
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: Shirley A. McDaniel, Guidance Counselor

Andrews High School
405 N.W. 3rd
Andrews, Texas 79714
Conference date: May, 1976
Contact: Michael Fetner

East Forsyth High School
Route 6
Kernersville, North Carolina 27284
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Jo Sherrill, President, National Honor Society

Sherman Senior High School
2201 East Lamar
Sherman, Texas 75090
Conference date: March, 1976
Contact: Helen Case, National Honor Society Sponsor

Jefferson Junior High School
201 South Copeland Avenue
Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549
Conference date: every 2-3 weeks
Contact: R.F. Kressin, Counselor

Millville Senior High School
Wade Boulevard
Millville, New Jersey 08332
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Herman L. Wesley, Department Chairman, Social Studies

Winthrop High School
Highland Avenue
Winthrop, Maine 04364
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Lehan Edwards, Principal

Central High School
800 Central Entrance
Duluth, Minnesota 55811
Conference date: monthly
Contact: Joan Thompson, National Honor Society Adviser

LaSalle Academy
612 Academy Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
Conference date: April, 1976
Contact: Brother Robert Hazard

West Essex High School
Greenbrook Road
North Caldwell, New Jersey 07006
Conference date: fall, 1975 and spring, 1976
Contact: Thomas Mullane, Adviser, Student Voice

Immaculate Conception Academy
24th & K Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
Conference date: spring, 1976
Contact: Sister Marcella Scully, Principal

West Milwaukee High School
5104 West Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Dennis L. Mair

St. Joseph High School
145 Plainfield Road
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Brother Francis Corradi

Euclid Senior High School
711 East 222 Street
Euclid, Ohio 44123
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Walter Schwegler

Watertown Senior High School
505 South 8th Street
Watertown, Wisconsin 53094
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Donald Bobb

Tenafly High School
Columbus Drive
Tenafly, New Jersey 07670
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Richard Luther, Administrative Assistant

Colonian High School
6100 Oleander Drive
Orlando, Florida 32807
Conference date: 1976
Contact: R.J. Schwenn, Assistant Principal

Tomah Senior High School
Lincoln Avenue
Tomah, Wisconsin 59660
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Lamont Prell

Archbishop Walsh High School
North 24th Street
Olean, New York 14760
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Mrs. J.T. Sinesiou

Harwood School
1114 7th N.W., Box 25184
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Sheila White, Principal

Doltn P. Stevens High School
Grove Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08817
Conference date: 1976
Contact: Harold R. Alley, Principal

A group of Washington, D.C. schools:
Wilson High School
Sidwell Friends School
National Cathedral School
St. Albans
Immaculata
Maret School
Sponsored by Iona House
4200 Butterworth Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Conference date: May 12, 1976
Contact: Pearlbea LaBier

Adrian High School
785 Riverside Avenue
Adrian, Michigan 49221
Conference date: April 6, 1976
Contact: Diane Cary, Student Leader

APPENDIX

THE CHARTER FOR OLDER AMERICANS

The following information was provided in connection with the 1975-76 Youth Conferences on Older Americans.

The Charter for Older Americans is a national policy statement of the rights and obligations of older persons. It was adopted in 1961 at a White House Conference on Aging.

The nine "rights" listed in the Charter are the right

- --to be useful
- --to obtain employment based on merit
- --to freedom from want
- --to a fair share of the community's recreational, educational and medical resources
- --to decent housing suited to needs of later years
- --to moral and financial support of one's family so far as is consistent with the best interest of the family
- --to live independently, as one chooses
- --to live and die with dignity
- --to access to all available knowledge on how to improve the later years of life.

The "obligations" stated in the Charter include obligations

- --to remain active, alert, self-supporting and useful so long as health and circumstances permit
- --to plan for retirement
- --to apply sound principles of physical and mental health
- --to seek and develop avenues of service
- --to make available the benefits of experience and knowledge
- --to try to adapt to the changes added years will bring
- --to maintain relationships with family, neighbors and friends.

Now, under a Presidential proclamation, a new charter is to be prepared as part of the Bicentennial. The President has asked people of all ages to join in the development of the new charter and to help put its principles into action.

T-149

TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL
72 STROBEL ROAD
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT 06611
Telephone 261-1111

HEADMASTER
DR. C. DUNCAN YETMAN
HOUSEMASTERS
EDWARD C. LOVELY A HOUSE
ROBERT F. ROCHE B HOUSE
LEONARD J. GERMANO C HOUSE

March 25, 1976

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a report on the Youth-Senior Citizen Conference held at Trumbull High School, Trumbull, Connecticut, on Wednesday, March 17, 1976.

I am very pleased that your organization introduced the idea to us as the conference was a tremendous success.

I personally feel that the conference was one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in my thirteen years as a professional educator. These feelings were shared by many who attended the event.

The conference succeeded in bringing the youth and senior community together for what we think will be a lasting relationship. Plans are being formulated to implement some of the conference conclusions. Steps are also being taken to alert the community to the concerns of the senior citizens in Trumbull.

We videotaped the conference and plan to show it to the people in the various senior organizations who were unable to attend the conference.

Thank you again for the idea.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Dirra
Career Education, Chairman

FJD/car

Main Blue Paper

214
6-151

PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

2101 DUDLEY AVENUE
PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26101
TELEPHONE: (304) 485-7941

April 6, 1976

Dear Ms. Harrison,

Although it's been over two months since Parkersburg's Youth/Elderly Conference, the spirit of that day lingers on. We had 44 elderly people from the community in attendance. More than 40 students, six teachers, and six speakers took part in the conference.

We feel the conference was a success. We feel the two main objectives of the conference are being met through this meeting of younger and older citizens. The objective of getting information to send to Bicentennial Committee for adoption of new Charter for Elderly Americans has been met through this report. The second, and what we feel to be a great objective, being the formation of a course at Parkersburg High School that continues the Youth/Elderly involvement.

Let us know how the committee is doing. Please feel free to call and ask any questions you may have. Let us also thank you for this opportunity to do something for the elderly of America that is worthwhile and truly meaningful.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Gates

Susan Gates
Chairperson of Y/E Conference

TOWNSHIP OF EWING RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

"Something for Everyone"

Municipal Building Trenton, N.J. 08618
1872 Pennington Rd.
(609) 883-2900 Ext. 51 & 26

Mr. Thomas DeMartin, Committeeman in Charge of Recreation
Fred R. Walters, Superintendent

Miss Karen Chatten
Villa Victoria Academy
River Road
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

Dear Karen:

The Senior Citizens of Ewing Township who participated in the "1976 Youth Conference on Older Americans" held on April 7, 1976 have asked we write you and express their enthusiasm, warmth and commendation in the manner in which the event was developed.

Please convey to your Leaders and the Students of the Villa Victoria Academy that the Seniors appreciated the amount of work and research that was noticeable within the entire program.

As an entire body we enjoyed the total preparation and we commend the Choral Group.

Sincerely,

(signed by Mary E. Dubinski)

Mary E. Dubinski, Supervisor
Ewing Township Senior Citizens

(signed by H.F. Byrne)

Harry F. Byrne, President